

Course Description and Goals

Contemporary international migration is transforming politics, economics, social relations, and ethnic identities in societies throughout the world. This course is designed to introduce students to some of the implications of international migration to the United States from a historical and comparative perspective. We will look at why and how people migrate, how citizens respond to that migration, how the federal government regulates migration, and how local communities manage the settlement of its newcomers. In the first part of the course students will familiarize themselves with global, regional and local trends in migration, focusing on the different migrant streams that constitute contemporary international migration, from forced migration such as refugee flows to the voluntary movement of foreign students. We will pay special attention to the specific case of the United States, comparing historical and contemporary migration streams to this country. As we move through the course, students will be active in research and fieldwork on many of the topics examined, which will allow students to apply what we learn from the readings and will become the foundation for interesting seminar discussions. By the end of the course you should have a solid understanding of major debates in the study of immigration.

Required Books

1. United Nations. 2011. *Human Atlas of Migration*
2. Jacqueline Hagan. 2008. *Migration Miracle*
3. UCLA Labor Center. 2012. *Undocumented and Unafraid*
4. Kasinitz, Phillip, John Mollenkopf, Mary Waters, and Jennifer Holdaway. 2008. *Inheriting the City: The Children of Immigrants Come of Age*
5. Stephen Roberts 2012. *From Every End of the Earth: Thirteen Families and the New Lives They Made in America*
6. Castles and Miller. Fourth Edition. *Age of Migration*

Course Requirements and Grading:

Brief summary of a migrant stream/type: The reasons why people migrate are varied and complex. Some people are forced to flee their homes, such as refugees, while others select to go abroad to further their studies. Pairs of students will research and prepare a five minute presentations on one of the following migration streams/patterns/types: colonial migration, diasporas, forced migration, skilled migration/brain drain, guest worker migration, student migration, refugees and asylees, child migration, marriage migration, international retirement migration, irregular/undocumented migration, temporary migration/relay migration, return migration, family reunification. Draw on the Atlas of Migration and accompanying bibliography to assist you with the research. In your presentations you should address: 1) the origins or development of this type of the stream; 2) the volume and composition and geography of the stream; and 3) implications of stream for sending and receiving nations. No written summaries are due but outlines of oral presentations and list of references used must be distributed to the class.

Individual Interview Project: Working on your own, you will conduct an oral history of someone who migrated to the United States before 2005. This person may be a relative, although you are encouraged to interview someone you do not know well. Based on the readings you have done, you need to construct a well-thought interview guide that considers migration, integration, and membership experiences. This will be worth 5% of your grade, and must be cleared by the TA. Due: 9/26. The remaining 15% will be based on your transcription of the interview and your discussion of major themes.

Group oral presentation on a U.S. immigration policy: With a partner, prepare a short 5-7 minute oral presentation and a short two-page written overview on one particular piece of legislation or policy that has influenced U.S. immigration. Your written and oral report should address the following questions:

1. What are the key provisions of this policy? (In other words, what regulations were changed, what new laws were instituted, what change in focus did the policy bring about?)
2. What was the context (historical, social, political and/or economic) that led to this new policy (or policy change)? Why was this policy instituted? Who was in favor? Who was opposed?
3. What were the main effects of the policy? Who benefited and who was hurt? Can you provide concrete examples of how the policy accomplished, or failed to accomplish, its goals?

Reading Notes and Discussion Questions: Reading notes and discussion questions are key to your success in this course. Reading notes and answers to discussion questions will be due on Tuesdays at the beginning of class. Please follow the format of the sample I gave in the beginning of class. You are required to bring a printed copy of the reading notes AND submit the notes in Sakai in the Assignment tab. You are not required to bring printed copies of discussion questions to class but will be required to submit the answers in Sakai in the Assignments Tab.

Final Exam: All students are required to take a closed book final exam, which will be administered only during the official UNC final exam period. On the last day of class, students will be provided with a list of five possible essay questions. Three of these questions will constitute the final exam. Students may study together when preparing for the exam.

Immigrant interview and essay assignment	20%
Migrant Stream Presentation	10%
U.S. Policy Presentation & 2 page written overview	20%
Reading Notes and Discussion Questions	20%
Final exam	30%

Schedule

Week 1

Introduction to the course
Introduction to Migration Terms and Definitions; Contemporary trends and issues and global migration

Readings:

Skim Atlas of Human Migration
Age of Migration (introduction)

Week 2

Why and How People Migrate?

Readings:

Age of Migration, chapter 2
Hagan, Migration Miracle, Introduction and Chapter One

Week 3

Assignment Due: Migrant Stream Presentations
Complete Migration stream presentations

Week 4

Film: Well Founded Fear

Week 5

Understanding Immigration Policy and Its Limits

Readings:

Age of Migration, chapter 8
Fix and Passel, The Policy Context
Migration Miracle, chapter 3
Remaking the US Green Card System, Migration Policy Institute

Week 6

Challenging, Resisting, and Navigating the State

Readings: Migration Miracle: chapter 2, 4, and 5 through conclusion

Week 7

Assignments Due: U.S. Immigration Policy Presentations and Two page written overview

Week 8

Issues in Contemporary U.S. Immigration Policies

Reading: Undocumented and Unafraid

Week 9

Contemporary National, Regional, and Local Trends in U.S. Immigration

Readings:

Martin and Midgley, "Immigration: Shaping and Reshaping America"

Week 10

Immigrant Integration: Theories, Debates and Challenges

Readings: Jiménez, Immigrants in the United States: How Well Are They Integrating into Society?

Week 11

Film: The Guestworker

Crossing the border

Readings: TBD

Week 12

The First Generation

Reading: From Every End of the Earth
Assignment Due: Submit Interview Guide

Week 13 - 14

The Second Generation

Reading: Inheriting the City

Assignment Due 11/21: Interview Transcription

Week 15

Wrap up

Week 16

Final Exam